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City of Barrie

Minutes - Final

Accessibility Advisory Committee

Thursday, April 8, 2021 | **4:00 PM** | **Virtual Meeting**

For consideration by the Finance and Corporate Services Committee on April 20, 2021.

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, C. Kenwell at 4:05 p.m. The following were in attendance for the meeting:

Present: 6 - Chairman C. Kenwell
Councillor R. Thomson
M. Francis
C. Moran
H. Morgan
L. Pope

Absent: 1 - D. Taylor

ALSO PRESENT:
Councillor, J. Harris.

STAFF:
Committee Support Clerk, T. Maynard
Disability Management and Accessibility Specialist, C. Dillon
Manager of Roads, Stormwater and Rail Operations, C. Morton
Project Manager, J.Black
Senior Project Technologist, J. Hunt.

The Accessibility Advisory Committee met and reports as follows:

SECTION "A"

PRESENTATION CONCERNING QUEENS PARK RECONSTRUCTION

J. Black, Project Manager and J. Hunt Senior Project Technologist provided a presentation concerning the Queens Park Reconstruction.

Mr. Black and Mr. Hunt provided an overview of the scope of the reconstruction project which includes the limits of Sophia Street West between Ross Street and Bayfield Street, and Mary Street and Maple Avenue between Wellington Street to Sophia Street West. Mr. Black described the project as a full neighbourhood reconstruction which will encompass the replacement of storm sewers, watermains, asphalt and sidewalks to Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) standards, which will include use of saw cut joints and tactile walking surface indicators.

H. Morgan thanked the City for bringing forth saw-cuts in it's design of sidewalks as this is a game changer for residents that use wheelchairs.

Members of Committee provided feedback to Mr. Black and Mr. Hunt and received responses from City staff.

WINTER MAINTENANCE AND ACCESSIBILITY OF CITY WALKWAYS

Councillor, J. Harris advised that he has received a concern from a resident regarding the ability to navigate the City's walkways to and from school with their children during the winter months. He described how the walkways are not currently maintained during the winter which makes them not accessible for those individuals with mobility issues and making them unsafe to navigate during icy conditions. He felt that these walkways were designed to connect City streets and to increase mobility by making walking more convenient for residents. Councillor, J. Harris advised that he is aware there are pedestrian walkways that may create potential challenges for the City to maintain during the winter. Councillor, J. Harris requested support from the Committee to have staff investigate the potential of winter maintenance for the street-to-street pedestrian walkways.

C. Dillon, Diversity Management and Accessibility Specialist commented that there are many variables in place regarding winter maintenance of pedestrian walkways.

C. Morton, Manager of Roads, Stormwater and Rail Operations provided an outline of the Council Policy related to Walkway Winter Maintenance. He advised that currently the City does not maintain walkways during the winter months and that maintenance does occur in the summer for vegetation clearing and general clean-up.

Mr. Morton commented that there are 98 street-to-street pedestrian walkways, 20 street to school pedestrian walkways and 120 other pedestrian walkways leading into parks and greenspaces. He described some potential challenges and barriers related to maintaining accessibility of the walkways during the winter months.

The Committee discussed winter maintenance and accessibility of City walkways year-round. The Committee agreed to have staff investigate the current walkway system to see if improvements could be made to safety and accessibility of the walkways that would increase overall pedestrian access year-round.

The Committee acknowledged the Operations Department for their great work with snow removal and sidewalk clearing and making Barrie more accessible during the winter months.

The Accessibility Advisory Committee met and recommends adoption of the following recommendation(s):

SECTION "B"

INVESTIGATION OF MAINTENANCE OF PEDESTRIAN WALKWAYS

That staff in the Operations Department investigate the current interconnected walkway system in the City to address resident safety and accessibility concerns, and the feasibility of facilitating both the summer and winter maintenance to increase pedestrian year-round access and report back to Accessibility Advisory Committee.

This matter was recommended to Finance and Corporate Services Committee for consideration of adoption at its meeting to be held on 4/20/2021.

The Accessibility Advisory Committee met and reports as follows:

SECTION "C"

2021 NATIONAL ACCESSABILITY WEEK

C. Dillon, Disability Management and Accessibility Specialist provided an update concerning the 2021 National AccessAbility Week. Ms. Dillon discussed that she is still gathering information regarding past Committee

members as part of a related event. Ms. Dillon advised that she will be working with staff in Access Barrie regarding the communications to promote National AccessAbility Week along with having a proclamation prepared in recognition of the week. Ms. Dillon commented that further discussion will take place at the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 5:34 p.m.

CHAIRMAN